



## **Solid Waste Landfills**

### **What is a solid waste landfill?**

- Solid waste landfills are carefully constructed structures built into or on top of the ground where trash is isolated from the surrounding environment.
- Landfills are required to use synthetic liners and various covers to isolate the trash from nearby ground water, air and soil.
- Owners and operators of solid waste landfills must apply for and receive a solid waste facility permit to operate the landfill.
- Solid waste landfills are not authorized to accept hazardous waste.

### **What are the main types of solid waste landfills?**

- Municipal solid waste landfills receive wastes generated by households. An MSWLF also may receive commercial solid waste, construction/demolition waste, household waste, industrial process waste and pollution control waste in accordance with the appropriate rules. The landfill may be publicly or privately owned.
- Construction/demolition waste sites contain solid waste from the construction, remodeling, repair or demolition of structures. Examples include scrap lumber, bricks, concrete, stone, glass, wallboard, roofing, plumbing fixtures, wiring and non-asbestos insulation.
- Restricted waste sites may accept only the specific waste designated in their facility permits, which is determined according to a classification system set by the solid waste land disposal rules.
- Non-municipal solid waste landfills receive general types of solid waste, excluding municipal solid waste and hazardous waste. A non-municipal solid waste landfill is operated by spreading the waste in thin layers, compacting it to the smallest practical volume, and covering it with a cover material at the end of each working day.

### **How is IDEM involved with landfills?**

- IDEM's Office of Land Quality is responsible for reviewing permit applications and issuing permit decisions for solid waste disposal and processing facilities.
- In addition to the permitting activities, geologists evaluate sampling protocols for ground water monitoring devices and review ground water quality information.
- Staff members from the Agricultural and Solid Waste Compliance and Technical Compliance sections conduct inspections at solid waste facilities and open dumps.
- IDEM inspects exiting landfills, new landfill construction and closed areas.

### **Where can I get more information?**

- For additional information, contact the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, Office of Land Quality at (800) 451-6027.
  - For landfill inspections, please call (317) 308-3040.
  - For solid waste permits, please call (317) 232-7200.
  - For solid waste operator certification, please call (317) 232-8731.
- You may also visit IDEM's Web site at <http://www.IN.gov/idem/land/permits/index.html>.